

PRIORITY

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ARA/NEA REARCS

*of PITUM*  
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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 09961 08 OF 02 230327Z 033140 0807023  
ACTION: CO (02)

INFO: DAND (01) RJ (01) SPA (01) MS (01) ARA (01) PPC (01) OAS (01)  
PPA (01)

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-05 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00  
EB-00 DODE-00 H-01 IO-19 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 HA-09  
L-03 LAB-04 TRSE-00 PM-00 PA-01 STR-18 SIL-00  
INM-00 INRE-00 RP-10 USIE-00 JUSE-00 SP-00 SR-00  
PRS-01 P-02 /084 V

P 22257Z JUN 90  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6670  
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

CONFIDENTIAL BOGOTA 09961

STATE FOR HA, ARA/AND, ARA/PPC-FARMSTRONG  
STATE PASS TO AID FOR RA/LAC  
GUATEMALA ALSO FOR AID--ANSALAZAR  
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PHUM, KJUS, CO  
SUBJECT: MILITARY MEN AND OTHERS FACE CHARGES IN MAJOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS CASES

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. BEGIN SUMMARY: JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING TWO  
OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS  
IN COLOMBIA IN RECENT YEARS--THE 1988 SEGOVIA MASSACRE  
AND THE 1989 LA ROCHELA MASSACRE--ARE MOVING SLOWLY  
FORWARD. ALTHOUGH NO ONE HAS YET BEEN CONVICTED FOR  
INVOLVEMENT IN THESE CRIMES, SEVERAL SUSPECTS, INCLUDING  
AT LEAST FIVE ARMY OR POLICE OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN,  
REMAIN IN CUSTODY WHILE THE COURTS INVOLVED INCH THEIR  
WAY TOWARDS A DECISION ON THEIR GUILT OR INNOCENCE. END  
SUMMARY.

#### THE SEGOVIA MASSACRE

3. THE JUDGE OF THE COURT WHICH HAS BEEN HANDLING THE  
CASE FOR MORE THAN A YEAR HAS DENIED A REQUEST THAT  
THREE MILITARY OFFICERS WHO FACE CRIMINAL CHARGES IN  
CONNECTION WITH THE SEGOVIA MASSACRE BE RELEASED WHILE  
LEGAL PROCEEDINGS CONTINUE, ACCORDING TO A RECENT PRESS  
ACCOUNT. THE ACCURACY OF WHICH WAS CONFIRMED TO POLOFF  
BY JAIME CORDOBA, PROCURADOR (ATTORNEY GENERAL) DELEGATE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. 43 PERSONS DIED IN THIS DECEMBER 11,  
1988 INCIDENT OF MASS MURDER IN ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT.  
THE MILITARY DETAINEES ARE LIEUTENANT COLONEL LUIS  
ALEJANDRO LONDOÑO TAMAYO WHO IS A FORMER BATTALION  
COMMANDER, POLICE CAPTAIN JORGE CHACON LASSO, AND  
LIEUTENANT EDGARDO ALFONSO HERNANDEZ. THEY ARE  
APPARENTLY NOT CHARGED AS DIRECT PERPETRATORS OF THE  
MASSACRE, BUT WITH FAILING TO INTERVENE TO PROTECT THE  
CIVILIAN POPULATION AND WITH INVOLVEMENT IN THREATS TO  
LOCAL INHABITANTS.

4. BECAUSE THE ALLEGED CRIMES DID NOT OCCUR IN THE  
COURSE OF A NORMAL MILITARY OPERATION, THE SUPREME COURT

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RULED SOME TIME AGO THAT THIS CASE WOULD BE HANDLED BY A  
CIVILIAN PUBLIC ORDER JUDGE. TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE  
SECURITY FORCES SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE  
MASSACRE--A POLICE CAPTAIN AND AN ARMY CORPORAL--ARE  
FUGITIVES. FOUR CIVILIANS WHO WERE ALLEGEDLY MEMBERS OF  
THE GROUP WHICH CARRIED OUT THE KILLINGS ARE IN CUSTODY,  
HOWEVER.

5. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE PROCURADURIA HAS  
APPOINTED A SPECIAL AGENT TO OVERSEE SEPARATE CRIMINAL  
PROCEEDINGS IN A MILITARY COURT AGAINST A MAJOR AND TWO  
CAPTAINS. THE THREE OFFICERS ARE CHARGED WITH  
COWARDICE, APPARENTLY FOR INACTION WHILE THE MASSACRE  
WAS TAKING PLACE.

6. THE UNSOURCED, BUT SURPRISINGLY ACCURATE PRESS  
REPORT ON THE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE ALLEGED  
PERPETRATORS OF THE SEGOVIA MASSACRE IS PROBABLY RELATED  
TO THE RELEASE SOME TWO WEEKS AGO OF MINING COMPANY  
EMPLOYEE FRANCISCO URIBE ECHEVERRI. THE ELN GUERRILLA  
GROUP HAD KIDNAPPED URIBE EARLIER THIS YEAR AND  
THREATENED TO EXECUTE HIM FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN  
THE MASSACRE. IN ORDER TO SECURE URIBE'S RELEASE,  
CORDOBA--WHO HAS ACTED AS AN INTERMEDIARY IN PREVIOUS  
CASES OF KIDNAPPING BY THE GUERRILLAS--AND SOCIAL  
CONSERVATIVE SENATOR ALVARO LEYVA MADE A COMMITMENT TO  
THE ELN TO PUSH FOR ACTION AGAINST THE AUTHORS OF THE  
MASSACRE.

#### THE LA ROCHELA MASSACRE

7. THE "FISCAL" OF THE CIVILIAN COURT WHICH IS  
INVESTIGATING THE JANUARY 1989 MASSACRE IN LA ROCHELA,  
SANTANDER DEPARTMENT, HAS RECOMMENDED THAT EIGHT  
CURRENTLY DETAINED INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING TWO MILITARY  
MEN, BE CONVICTED ON CHARGES RELATED TO THIS INCIDENT IN  
WHICH TWELVE MEMBERS OF A JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION  
COMMISSION, INCLUDING TWO JUDGES, WERE MURDERED. AMONG  
THOSE WHO THE FISCAL BELIEVES SHOULD BE CONVICTED IS  
ALFONSO DE JESUS BAQUERO (AKA "VLADIMIR"), THE ALLEGED  
LEADER OF THE ARMED PARA-MILITARY GROUP WHICH CARRIED  
OUT THE KILLINGS (WHO WAS ARRESTED LAST AUGUST), AND TWO  
MEMBERS OF THE ARMY--A LIEUTENANT AND A SERGEANT. THE  
EXACT ROLE THE MILITARY MEN ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE PLAYED  
IN THE INCIDENT IS UNCLEAR.

8. UNDER THE COLOMBIAN SYSTEM, A FISCAL IS AN OFFICIAL  
OF THE PROCURADURIA CHARGED WITH OVERSEEING THE  
RECTITUDE OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND WITH PROVIDING  
ADVISORY OPINIONS ON THE GUILT OR INNOCENCE OF THOSE  
ACCUSED. THESE ADVISORY OPINIONS CARRY CONSIDERABLE  
WEIGHT. THE JUDGE INVOLVED MUST NOW DECIDE WHETHER OR  
NOT TO ACCEPT THE FISCAL'S RECOMMENDATION AND CONVICT  
THE EIGHT DETAINEES.

#### OUTLOOK

9. BY THE LOW STANDARDS OF COLOMBIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING MEMBERS  
OF THE ARMY, WERE ARRESTED AND REMAIN IN CUSTODY FOR  
ALLEGED COMPLICITY IN THESE TWO CASES IS IMPRESSIVE.  
IN PARTICULAR, A CLEAR MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT TO THE  
MILITARY THAT INVOLVEMENT IN SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS  
VIOLATIONS MAY LEAD TO DISGRACE AND AT LEAST TEMPORARY  
IMPRISONMENT. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, WHETHER  
THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL BE CONVICTED AND, IF SO, WHETHER  
THEIR CONVICTIONS WILL BE UPHELD BY A HIGHER COURT.

MCNAMARA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: THEODORE SELLIN  
DATE/CASE ID: 01 JUL 2003 200101358

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box 4 of 6  
Folder: PHUM Report

ROUTINE

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KJUS  
PHUM

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05762 171828Z  
ACTION: CO (02)

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INFO: RJ (01) DAND (01) PDAS (01) SPA (01) ARA (01) PPC (01)  
OAS (01) PPA (01) EPSC (04) DEPSC (01)

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-00 ACDE-00 AID-00 OASY-00 DS-00 EUR-00  
UTED-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00 DSCC-00 DRL-09 /019W  
----- C6698E 171829Z /38

R 171832Z JUN 97  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6987  
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM  
DIA WASHDC  
USIA WASHDC 2492  
CIA WASHDC  
NSC WASHDC  
DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD  
SECDEF WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHDC//OCDEPS//

UNCLAS BOGOTA 005762

STATE FOR ARA/AND, DRL, EUR/RPM (MFITZPATRICK)  
NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS  
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD  
USIA FOR AR, I/GAR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, CO

SUBJECT: COLONEL ACCUSED IN 1988 SEGOVIA MASSACRE TO BE TRIED BY  
CIVILIAN, NOT MILITARY, JUSTICE SYSTEM

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE CASE OF AN ARMY OFFICER ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE NOVEMBER 1988 SEGOVIA MASSACRE, WHICH LEFT 43 PEOPLE DEAD, WILL BE HANDLED BY THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S HUMAN RIGHTS UNIT, AND NOT BY THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM. RETIRED COLONEL HERNANDO NAVAS RUBIO WAS IMPLICATED IN NOVEMBER 1996 BY CONVICTED MURDERER AND PARAMILITARY MEMBER ALONSO DE JESUS VAQUERO AGUDELO, AKA "VLADIMIR." THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMY'S 14TH BRIGADE, ACTING AS INVESTIGATIVE JUDGE, HAD ASKED THAT THE CASE BE TURNED OVER TO THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM SINCE NAVAS'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE WOULD HAVE STEMMED FROM "CAUSE OR REASON OF SERVICE" IN THE MILITARY.

2. POLOFF SPOKE JUNE 17 WITH A FISCALIA REPRESENTATIVE, WHO SAID HER OFFICE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF THE RULING. SHE UNDERTOOK TO SHARE A COPY WITH THE EMBASSY ONCE IT IS AVAILABLE, SINCE THE RULING IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT. FRECHETTE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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